

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 05674 281259Z
ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5674

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, ET, US
SUBJ: CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT OF BOGALE WOLDE HAWARIAT

REF: A. STATE 231353, B. ADDIS ABABA 5500

1. IF USIA WILLING CONTINUE BOGALE ON PAYROLL, WE CERTAINLY HAVE NO OBJECTION AND CAN FIND USEFUL THINGS FOR HIM TO DO. IN TIME, HOWEVER, UNLESS SOME KIND OF USIS PROGRAM IS RE-INSTATED, USIS-RELATED ACTIVITIES WILL BECOME FEWER AND FEWER AND NO ONE SHOULD BE UNDER ANY ILLUSION ON THAT SCORE.

2. ONLY REACTION WE HAVE HAD TO POST PROPOSAL RE REESTABLISHMENT OF USIS HERE CAME FROM BERHANE DERESSA OF MOFA (REFTEL B), WHO AS YOU KNOW IS NOW AT UNGA IN NEW YORK AND IS NOT EXPECTED BACK UNTIL END OF OCTOBER. MY GUESS IS THAT HE WAS TALKING ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE AND I DOUBT THAT HE PURSUED MATTER WITHIN HIS OWN GOVERNMENT BEFORE HE LEFT. I WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH PURSUING SUBJECT WITH MOFA, BUT WOULD LIKE SOME KIND OF INSTRUCTION TO DO SO WHICH INCLUDES SPECIFIC RANGE OF POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON. I DO NOT KNOW AT THIS POINT WHAT MIGHT BE PERMITTED WERE EPMG TO AGREE, BUT SUGGEST WE MIGHT THINK ALONG LINES OF FOLLOWING:

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A. IV PROGRAM (WHICH CURRENTLY BEING PERMITTED WITHOUT OUR ASKING).

B. LIMITED DISSEMINATION OF PRINTED MATERIAL, ESPECIALLY WIRELESS FILE (WE DO THIS FOR CERTAIN MOFA OFFICIALS NOW).

C. SMALL FILM PROGRAM (FILM PROGRAM BEFORE WAS STRICTLY ON LOAN-OUT BASIS ON REQUEST AND USED ONLY FILMS APPROVED BY CENSOR. A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT MIGHT NOT BOTHER THEM).

D. CARE OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS.

E. LIAISON WITH MININFO, ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY, UNIVERSITY (DISCREET), AND POSSIBLY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

F. BOOK PRESENTATION.

3. AMONG THOSE THINGS WE SHOULD NOT CONSIDER WITHOUT EPMG ENCOURAGEMENT ARE A) LIBRARY ACTIVITIES, B) VISITING SPECIALISTS, C) CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA, AND D) FORMATION OF LOCAL DISCUSSION GROUPS. THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO WITH READING ROOMS OUTSIDE OF ADDIS (LIBRARY HERE IS GONE) SINCE PROBLEM OF RECOVERY OF MATERIAL IS STILL ACTIVE, AND I WOULD ENVISAGE AT LEAST AN EFFORT TO PLACE MATERIAL WITH MEDIA EVEN THOUGH THIS WAS NON-STARTER IN RECENT PAST AND I WOULD NOT RATE PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE AS BEING VERY GOOD. ANY USIS OFFICER, OF COURSE, WOULD BE EXPECTED ASSUME CERTAIN NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES VIS-A-VIS HIS OWN AGENCY.

4. IF WE WISH TO PURSUE MATTER, YOU SHOULD KEEP IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MIND THAT WE HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO DISPOSE OF ALL USIS EQUIPMENT AND ARE IN PROCESS OF DOING SO. IF WASHINGTON WANTS TO FOLLOW UP ON POST INITIATIVE, THIS ASPECT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED SOON WITH USIA. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE REMAINING USIS HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE PACKED FOR SHIPMENT TO NAIROBI. IF IT IS SHIPPED, WE WOULD NEED ESTIMATED 4-6 MONTHS TO REPLACE IT. HOUSING NOW WOULD BE NO PROBLEM, BUT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL NOT BECOME PROBLEM LATER.

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